

THE OTHER PRESS

SPECIAL EDITION

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AGM may be end of Johnston

Due to an apparent error on the part of The Other Press, we neglected to publish an open letter to the students. This letter was written by Student Council Vice-President Internal, Norm Greenfield. As The Other Press has already published letters written by Dave Johnston and Bill Burnham, we feel that due to the time factor involved with the approaching Annual General Meeting, and in the interest of fair play, that this letter be published now.

Well it is that time of year again.

What time of year is it, you ask?

It's time for the Annual General Meeting (AGM). What is that you ask, again?

Well, this is a meeting that is held at the beginning of the year for all societies as required by law, namely the British Columbia Societies Act.

This meeting is held to take care of some business that cannot be done at the regular council meetings, such as the passing of the annual report of the council and it's auditor's report.

At this meeting there is going to be what looks like quite an interesting matter. It could mean a whole new direction for the Douglas College Student Society, namely you the student. The major change will result in the redistribution of the funds to each of the campuses.

This will mean greater autonomy for the campuses where the control of the student funds should have been a long time ago. This proposal has been the brainchild of two very hard working students: their names are Bill Burnham, an interested student, and Bob Tinkess, Surrey campus chairperson.

These two students have spearheaded this campaign to get it as far as the AGM and now they need your support to make it legal and get it down in the constitution. Now the way to show your support is to show up at the AGM on Thursday, February 23, of this week at 11 am on the New Westminster campus.

What the proposals are in a nut shell; are that they feel that the budget of the society should be divided up amongst

the campuses based on a formula achieved through the use of statistics obtained from the enrollment figures.

This would mean that each campus would get a budget of a considerable sum according to their student enrollment. The only conditions placed on receiving this money are that each campus must have a chairperson and a full slate of representatives.

It also means that if a club wants to funds to operate with, they will now have to go to each campus council and apply for funds. This way each campus contributes funds according to the number of students from their campuses. This would hopefully spur an interest in the council by many more students.

This is also hopefully going to reduce the apathy shown by the students towards their council. The students will now be able to see that their campus council can now do something more worthwhile, instead of being just another social clique.

Now don't get the feeling that the whole student council is in favour of this proposed amendment. They aren't.

There seems to be some reluctance from the office of the president, namely Dave Johnston. Why, you ask?

I don't know.

Maybe he's afraid that he won't have anything to do after the budgetary control is handed over to the campus councils. Well, I say to you Dave, that with the upcoming move for the New Westminster campus, we will have quite a job on our hands to make sure that the student's interests are kept in mind by the administration. This means keeping our collective noses in every stage of the movement.

There is also the problem of letting the government know that we do not appreciate the way they are handling the economy, and that we would appreciate some sort of job when we get out of school. There is also the job of making sure that each and every student is being treated in a fair and just matter by the college. We also have vested in us the trust that any major

decisions made at the college has the present and future students in mind.

So Dave, I really think that you should be happy that you don't have to worry about how much the nurses are going to get for their graduation party or if the ski club is getting enough. So why are you disagreeing with the proposals Dave?

Maybe the reason is that you don't feel that students are responsible enough to handle their own affairs, because that's the general theme behind all your arguments, at least that's how I feel.

There is also going to be one other major change in the constitution.

This second major change refers to the sovereignty of The Other Press.

The Other Press has proposed that they get a guaranteed percentage of the society's budget at the beginning of each semester to run the paper and set up a separate publishing co-op.

This idea also runs up against some resistance from Dave Johnston. Why? I don't know.

If you have no real reason to come to the AGM why don't you at least come to see the speech on the Society's accomplishments over the past year?

If it weren't for the fact that Dave won't be sitting in a Lazy Boy rocker, smoking a pipe with his trusty dog at his side, you'd think it was one of those fire side chats that seem to be infecting the politicians of late.

When Dave gets up to address the meeting he will leave out a few important points.

The first point will be that he almost, if indeed he did not, undermined the success of the AGM by playing a silly little game of politics.

It all started on a Saturday morning in early February. The motion to have the annual general meeting on Thursday February 23, 1978, was passed.

There was also an adhoc committee formed for the planning of the advertising, festivities and refreshments for the meeting. About five days later I was

Over...

...cont.

informed by Dave Johnston that "HE" had decided that the meeting wouldn't work on the Thursday, that he was also not able to book a room, and to top it all off he wanted to get the famous and notorious Dave Barrett. This was a supreme example of Dave's contempt for the council.

Now it must have been by coincidence, but the campus representatives communicated to Dave that if the meeting wasn't held on the Thursday as originally planned they were going to boycott the meeting.

Miraculously Dave found another room in which to hold the meeting in on Thursday, and also secured the tonsils of Dennis Cocke. I'm wondering why Dave couldn't have left well enough alone.

There was a well organized publicity blitz and a lunch for the attendants in the morning before the AGM planned, but all this has gone up the chimney, all because of the bungling of Dave.

I am now publicly asking for the resignation of Dave Johnston if this AGM is not successful.

There is some speculation as to why Dave did this little bit of politicking.

There are some who say Dave Johnston was afraid of losing his little kingdom of power and therefore had to resort to underhanded politics. I haven't told you the whole story yet, so here it is. By moving the meeting to Monday afternoon Dave would be effectively removing his opposition to the present constitution, namely Surrey, Coquitlam and Richmond students. This only leaves the New Westminster students and we all know how they would vote, don't we!

If you ask me, I think Dave should be quizzed about this little oversight on his part.

Another example of Dave's arrogance and disrespect for parliamentary procedure: Dave moved and approved the expenditure of \$700 for a dance in Richmond without quorum. Another example of arrogance.

At the meeting on February 4, I saw the severest abuse of parliamentary procedure ever. Dave passed the duty of chairing the meeting over to Gabor Horompoly several times, just so he could tell his point of view on the question of the constitutional amendments. Another example of arrogance.

Another example is the statement he made to the press on the matter of the relocation of the New Westminster campus. Dave did not bother to clarify his statement by saying that he was voicing his own opinions on the subject. Dave, you should know better. This is especially discouraging because it is rumoured that this statement influenced the final decision to move.

What I would also like to point out is that Dave has resisted these upcoming changes to the constitution all the way because he's afraid that he will be forgotten about. But I ask you how can you forget someone that is so inept at performing a simple task?

I rest my case.

I plead with you to come to the meeting and voice your concerns about the direction of the society and YOUR money.

If you would like to talk about any aspect of the Student Society and our work feel free to talk to me before the meeting.

Your council is listening, but are you talking?

Respectively yours
Norm Greenfield
Vice-President

Agenda for Annual General Meeting

All to order 11:00 a.m.

Keynote speaker - Dennis Cocke

Ratification of chairperson

Acceptance of Agenda

Report of the students' government

Presentation of the auditors report 1976-77

Financial statements,

Constitutional amendments

Allocation of fees to
publications society

Adjournment

**Quorum for the meeting is 100 students,
it is your money, be there!!**

Thur. 11 a.m. New West